

## UCLA Hepatology Program opens office in Rialto



**The UCLA Hepatology Program** offers state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic services for adults with all forms of liver disease. With a new satellite facility for general hepatology in Rialto, patients in the Inland Empire now have convenient access to board-certified specialists who are part of the faculty of the Melvin & Bren Simon Digestive Diseases Center at UCLA and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Hepatologists in the Rialto office provide a broad range of medical and surgical services including:

- Screening and treatment for hepatitis B
- Screening and treatment for hepatitis C
- Treatment for liver cirrhosis
- Management of fatty liver disease and hepatic fibrosis
- Management of liver cancer
- Pre- and post-liver-transplantation care

### UCLA care offered in Rialto

The hepatology office in Rialto provides exceptional care for adult liver patients living in the San Bernardino region, says Mohamed El Kabany, MD, assistant clinical professor in the UCLA Hepatology Program.

“Patients in the Inland Empire now have access to UCLA physicians close to home,” he says. “We will offer many services on site. However, patients who require a higher level of care will be referred to UCLA Health in Westwood.”

Physicians in the Rialto office will work closely with the experts at the Dumont-UCLA Transplant Center to coordinate the care of liver-transplant candidates and post-transplant patients.

“We are the largest liver-transplant program in Southern California,” Dr. El Kabany says. “We have outstanding success rates, despite caring for the sickest patients. Our success rates exceed the national average. It will be much more convenient for patients in the Inland Empire to receive their pre-operative and post-transplant care here in our Rialto office.”

## Thorough hepatologic care using the latest techniques

The liver specialists at UCLA are leaders in the field and utilize the latest techniques aimed at treating disease and enhancing the quality of life of patients with chronic conditions. Patients have access to innovative therapies, including interventional endoscopy treatments that are not offered at other healthcare facilities.

Our physicians are at the forefront of advances in the treatment of hepatitis B and C. We offer interferon-sparing medical therapy for hepatitis C that dramatically shortens the course of treatment and improves cure rates. Timely treatment of hepatitis C is vital. Approximately 20 percent of people infected with hepatitis C virus will become sick with jaundice or other symptoms of hepatitis. Sixty to 70 percent of these people may go on to develop chronic liver disease.

The physicians in the Rialto office also offer screening and treatment for hepatitis B, the main cause of liver disease among those of Asian heritage. In the United States, chronic hepatitis B is the leading cause of liver cancer and is the second-leading cause for liver transplantation. As many as one out of every 10 Asian Americans has chronic hepatitis B.

The new office will also accept referrals for the diagnosis and treatment of liver cancer. Hepatocellular carcinoma is the most common liver cancer. UCLA provides the latest imaging modalities and a broad range of treatments for liver cancer including surgical resection, chemotherapy, chemoembolization, radiofrequency ablation, microwave ablation, cryosurgery and radiation therapy. Patients seen in the Rialto office have access to select services on site, such as radiofrequency ablation, ethanol ablation and Yttrium-90 microsphere-selective internal radiation therapy, as well as pre-operative and follow-up care.

## Leading program in liver transplantation

The Dumont-UCLA Transplant Center is the most experienced in the United States, receiving patients from throughout the Western United States and serving as a tertiary referral center for the most challenging cases. Many advances in liver transplantation were pioneered by UCLA physicians and surgeons, and our program provides a variety of transplant options including living-donor liver transplant. Patients seen in the Rialto office will receive a majority of pre- and post-transplant care at that facility without the need for travel to Los Angeles.

## Referral to main campus

The major objective of the new hepatology office is to provide convenient and timely care to patients in the Inland Empire. However, patients who need specialized treatments or surgery will receive an expedited referral to the UCLA Hepatology Program in Westwood. Patients may also be referred for participation in clinical trials, including novel therapies for chronic liver disease.

## Participating Physicians

### Mohamed El Kabany, MD

Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine

### Adult Liver Transplant — Surgery

Vatche G. Agopian, MD

Elaine Cheng, MD

Douglas Farmer, MD

Fady M. Kaldas, MD

Gerald S. Lipshutz, MD, MS

Hasan Yersiz, MD

Ali Zarrinpar, MD, PhD

### Adult Liver Transplant — Hepatology

Gina Choi, MD

Francisco A. Durazo, MD

Steven-Huy Han, MD

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